

Ellie Kyungran Heo *Plantarians*



6 November - 11 December 2021

Wed - Sat, 12 - 4pm

LUX, Waterlow Park Centre, London, N19 5JF, UK

Event URL: <https://bit.ly/2YmTZp9>

LUX is delighted to present the first UK solo exhibition by South Korean artist Ellie Kyungran Heo, featuring her latest moving image project *Plantarians* (2017-2020), in partnership with the London Korean Film Festival.

Ellie Kyungran Heo's work considers the ethics of coexistence, attending to the underlying environmental conflicts in everyday lives. Her reframing of encounters between humans and nature reveals an intricate web of interdependence and questions anthropocentric perspectives. Punctuated by humour and irony, Heo's works are filled with social and ecological entanglements, in which the multiplicity of discourse is celebrated.

Heo's observational approach to documentary is often interposed with staged gestures which hint at the artist's uncertainty and open-ended curiosity, offering a self-reflexive mode of filmmaking as a way of coexisting. With its distinctive sensitivity and rigour, Heo's film, as Gareth Evans writes, "resists easy co-option. It resists for a little while the ongoing erasures. It says like all works of worth, 'this was', 'this is', 'remember'".*

* Gareth Evans (Whitechapel Gallery Adjunct Moving Image Curator), Notes Towards an Ecology of Empathy in the films of Ellie Kyungran Heo, K.NOTe, vol 46, Total Museum Press, 2018.

Plantarians (2017-2020) is a rumination on entangled relationships between humans and plants in urban spaces. Divided into episodes, each follows individuals who cultivate, eat and accompany plants in celebration and grief. These everyday activities become strangely unfamiliar through unhurried attention to the moments of survival and resilience of plants between the cracks, on the peripheries of gardens and within human-made surroundings. The subtle shift in perspective elicits a sense of ambivalence, imagining how plants might endure, interact with and be vulnerable to the interruptions inflicted upon them. *Plantarians* poses a fundamental question around interdependent relations, both conflicting and intimate, and how we co-inhabit this planet with all living beings.

The exhibition at LUX features a collection of short films, photography and video installation that form the latest iteration of the *Plantarians* episodes, accompanied by a commissioned essay and related programmes.

The first iteration of *Plantarians* was screened at LUX in 2017. This time, the project returns to the site as an expansive body of work, marking the occasion of welcoming Heo's films to the LUX Collection.

Plantarians has been developed during Hospitalfield Summer Residency 2017; Summer Lodge Residency, Nottingham Trent University 2018; Jan van Eyck Academie Residency 2019-2020 and supported by The Elephant Trust and Arts Council Korea.

The exhibition is supported by the London Korean Film Festival and presented in the context of the Artist Video Strand for the 16th edition of the festival.

RELATED EVENT

- **A *Plant/Human Encounter* | Sat 20 November / 3pm at LUX**

A botanical lecture and artistic exploration event hosted by **Dawn Sanders** (Botanical educator and researcher, University of Gothenburg), **Atzi Muramatsu** (Multi-disciplinary composer) and exhibiting artist **Ellie Kyungran Heo**. More information will be released on the LKFF and LUX websites.

- **Online Screening | 27 - 28 November on the LUX Website**

Ellie Kyungran Heo's earlier work *Island* (2015) will be available to view on the LUX website.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Ellie Kyungran Heo studied Fine Art at Chelsea College of Arts (2010-2013) and Moving Image at the Royal College of Art (2013-2015) in London. Her works have been exhibited and screened widely, including the Contemporary Art Biennial Sesc_Videobrasil, São Paulo; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul; Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul; and Today Art Museum, Beijing. <https://elliemyungran.com>

LUX is an international arts agency that supports and promotes artists' moving image practices and the ideas that surround them. The organisation's main activities are distribution, exhibition, publishing, education, research, and professional development support for artists and arts professionals.

lux.org.uk

The London Korean Film Festival has grown from humble beginnings to become one of the longest running and most respected festivals dedicated to Korean cinema in the world. We've built a name upon presenting lineups consisting of everything from the country's most successful blockbusters to thought-provoking independents from its finest auteurs. Across a variety of finely curated strands we aim to cater for general audiences to committed cinephiles, and everyone in between.

The London Korean Film Festival will return to celebrate its 16th year from 4 November – 19 November 2021, featuring 35+ cinema screenings in leading venues around London. The 16th London Korean Film Festival is organised by the Korean Cultural Centre UK with the support of the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports & Tourism, Korean Film Council. Full Programme: <https://www.koreanfilm.co.uk/>

Social Media

LUX

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London Korean Film Festival

IG: @london_korean_film_festival | TW: @KCCUK | FB: @theLKFF

#LUXMovingImage #LKFF2021 #EllieKyungranHeo #Plantarians

For more information, images and artist interviews please contact Sun Park on +44 (0) 2031412966 or sun@lux.org.uk

EVENT ACCESSIBILITY

LUX is located in Waterlow Park (Highgate), near the Dartmouth Park Lodge Gate on Dartmouth Park Hill. Please note: there is no public parking inside Waterlow Park. The LUX building is fully wheelchair accessible and there are wheelchair accessible toilet facilities.

Address:

LUX, Waterlow Park Centre, Dartmouth Park Hill, London, N19 5JF, UK

For the safety of our visitors and staff, we will maintain most of our COVID safety measures until further notice. Please read the safety information when booking on our website (www.lux.org.uk). If you have special access needs to attend our events please contact us at +44(0)20 3141 2960 or events@lux.org.uk. Please include any accessibility needs that would aid the viewing.

Image credit: *Plantarians*, Ellie Kyungran Heo, 2017-2020.

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